



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
John R. Griffin, Secretary
Joseph P. Gill, Deputy Secretary

October 9, 2012 Meeting of the MD DNR Sport Fisheries Advisory Commission
DNR Action Item Response

Action Items

1. The SFAC requested a ruling on protocol for holding public meetings (w/out DNR staff). The Commission itself is subject to the Open Meetings Act – that means that meetings that DNR is not involved with still have to be open to the public and adequate notice of those meetings. The Open Meetings Act can be viewed at: <http://www.oag.state.md.us/Opengov/Openmeetings/index.htm>
2. The SFAC requested the Snakehead technical document be sent to the Commission. Completed.
3. The SFAC requested information on the process that would be required to collect striped bass bycatch information from pound net fishermen in the spawning rivers prior to June. The law requires a licensee to report information that is requested by the Department. Therefore, no regulatory or legislative law change would be needed to acquire this information. However, logbooks were just ordered at the end of FY 12, and there is no money in the FY 13 budget for reprints of logbooks that would incorporate a bycatch records section. In addition, the value of the information is questionable. Bycatch data collected without a verification or monitoring system in place are unreliable and are not typically used for management. The associated cost and staff resources needed to manage a vessel monitoring program during the spring migratory period are not available.
4. The SFAC requested what criteria would need to be met to trigger a new regulation requiring the removal of pound nets from spawning rivers in the spring. This issue is too complex to establish a checklist of criteria that would lead the Department to only one management alternative – *removal of pound nets from the spawning rivers in the spring*. Fisheries will continue to monitor the striped bass population through our stock assessment process, paying particular attention to spawning stock biomass, fishing mortality rates, and juvenile production. If concerns arise, Fisheries would evaluate the biological, economic, cultural, and social effects to any action before making an informed management decision. Currently, we are working on regulations for the pound net fishery with the intent to provide reasonable guardrails to address the concerns and issues brought to our attention through the Pound Net White Paper discussions. Having these rules in place will allow Fisheries to gather accurate pound net effort data and will limit the amount of time striped bass could be held in pound nets during their spawning migration.
5. The SFAC asked when the spotted sea trout FMP is scheduled for review. The current FMP is posted online at: http://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/fmp/pdf/SpottedSeaTroutWeakfish_FMP_Dec1990.pdf The Spotted Seatrout FMP is scheduled for review. Fisheries Service is currently compiling a review of current stock status and actions. Fisheries will discuss the review process with the Commission at their February, 2013 meeting.